



# *Bani*

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S E R I E S

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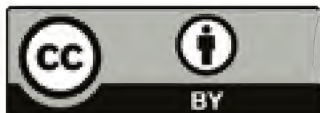
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**PRATHAM BOOKS**

# *Bani*

Written by  
Herminder Ohri

Illustrated by  
Taposhi Ghoshal







Bani is a little girl of four. She lives in a house with a green door.  
She goes to a school with bright yellow windows and red doors.



Bani loves her school.  
Along with lessons, she dances, sings and  
plays with her friends.





One night, Bani was really tired. As she closed her eyes to sleep, she felt herself floating away, out of the house, down the hill into a grove of trees.



Wake up ! Wake up Bani ! Bani woke up with a start.  
She saw many strange children with funny faces and hats  
standing in front of her.





The children made a ring around Bani and began singing.

“Welcome ! Welcome ! We have waited for you for nearly a year.”

“For a whole year !” whispered Bani.

“Yes ! Yes !” they shouted.





“We know you can float in your sleep.”

“May be sing in your sleep.”

“But I am not asleep,” said Bani pinching herself, “Ouch!”

“Even fly in your sleep,” they sang.

“Fly? How and where?” asked Bani.

“Stretch your arms out like wings, fly like a bird, a cloud or anything.”




Bani stretched out her arms and she was flying with her new friends.  
They flew over the forest and when Bani looked down,  
she saw hundreds of lights.



She followed the children down towards the lights.  
Bani saw a town all made of giant mushrooms.  
There were green mushrooms,  
yellow, white, purple and red mushrooms.  
In each mushroom was a house.





*Bani flew into one house.  
The house was like any other house,  
but the floors were mushroom floors  
— so — so — soft. Softer than any carpet.  
The children skipped and ran  
showing Bani the mushroom town.*

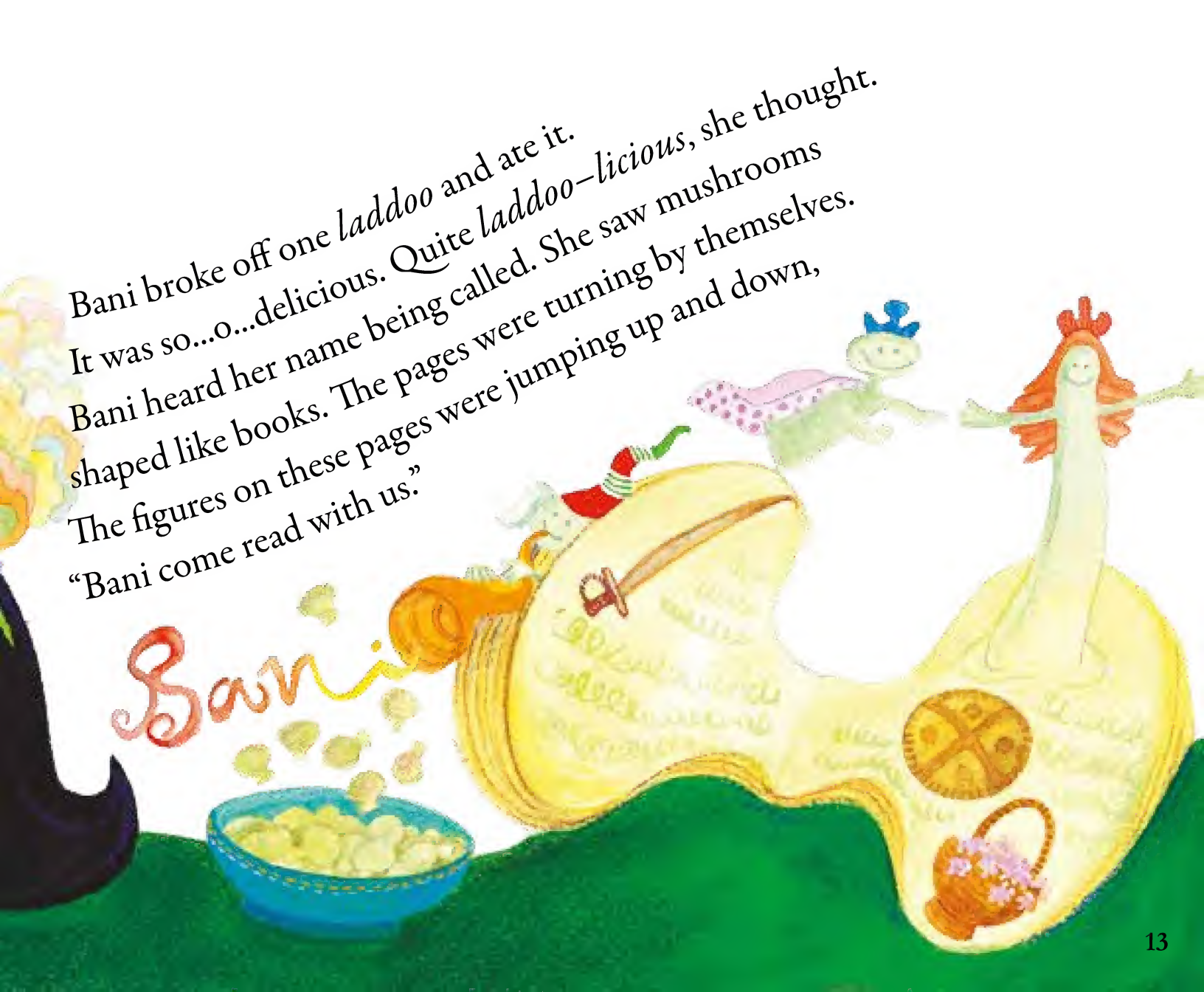




“Come ! Let us eat,” said the children together.  
All Bani could see were fields and fields of odd looking mushrooms.  
“What funny mushrooms,” said Bani.  
“Oh ! those are *laddoo* mushrooms.”  
Bani was surprised to see that on top of each mushroom was a *laddoo*.  
There were yellow, green and white *laddoos* and *barfis* too.







Bani broke off one *laddoo* and ate it.  
It was so...o...delicious. Quite *laddoo-licious*, she thought.  
Bani heard her name being called. She saw mushrooms  
shaped like books. The pages were turning by themselves.  
The figures on these pages were jumping up and down,  
“Bani come read with us.”

Bani went to the book mushrooms. The figures told her stories of kings, queens, fairies and brave warriors. She listened while eating mushroom chips. Soon she was very thirsty. The children took her to a stream of sparkling water. It was lemonade. The next stream was orange juice and another mango juice. Bani drank a little from all the streams. It was nice and cold.





There was wonderful music coming from the music mushrooms. Bani found herself dancing with a little boy in a pointed hat and pointed shoes.

“What is your name?” asked Bani.

“I am Pointy,” said he. Even his face was pointed.

Then Bani danced with a little girl who wore a heart-shaped hat and shoes to match her heart-shaped face.

“I am Little Heart,” she sang.





Bani sang and danced with all the children. "I am tired," said Bani,  
"Can we rest?" "No time ! No time ! Take a sip of lemonade."

Bani took a sip and she felt better.

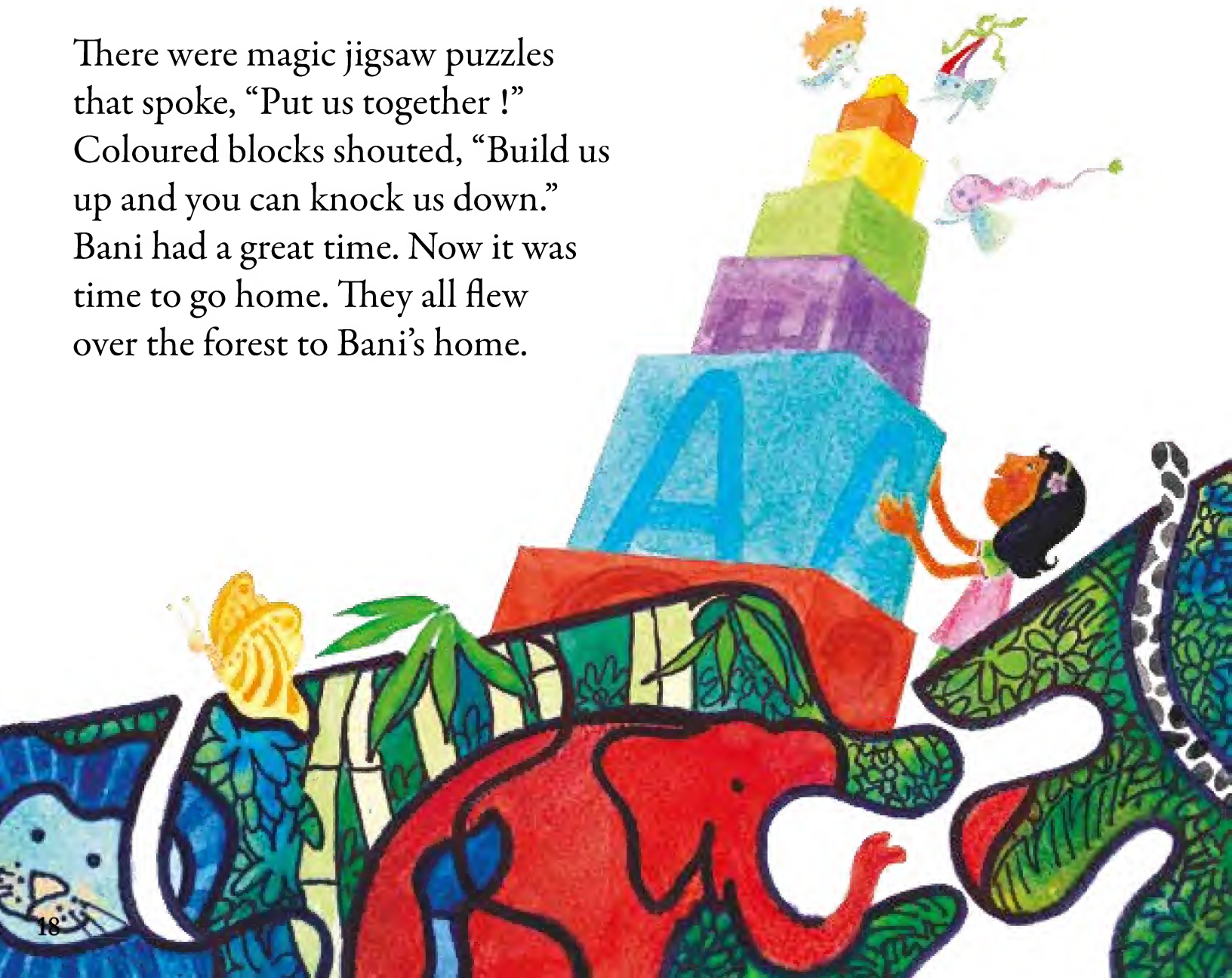
"Let us fly to the mountains," they said.  
They flew past mountains made of cake, ice cream and candy.



Then they came to the very last mountain. It was a toy mountain. Bani had never seen so many toys ! The children played with brightly coloured magic balls that bounced here and there making the children jump. Toy cars whizzed up to them and took them for rides.



There were magic jigsaw puzzles  
that spoke, “Put us together !”  
Coloured blocks shouted, “Build us  
up and you can knock us down.”  
Bani had a great time. Now it was  
time to go home. They all flew  
over the forest to Bani’s home.







“Bye Bye Bani ! Come again !”  
The children flew back to mushroom town.



Bani got into her bed and fell fast asleep.  
In the morning she thought she had such a lovely dream,  
till she opened her hand and saw a .....  
What do you think Bani saw in her hand?  
Why don't you make your own little story ... about Bani.



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Herminder Ohri has been a professor of zoology. She has always had an interest in painting and writing. Her grandsons have turned her into a popular author of children's books.



Taposhi Ghoshal graduated from the College of Art, New Delhi in 1989. She has illustrated several books for children as a freelance illustrator and designer. Presently she is working for many NGOs and leading publishing houses.



**Bani can float in her sleep and reach the most amazing amusing places. Would you like to float along?**

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